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LABRADOR.

LETTERS RECEIVED IN LONDON ON MAY 20th,
1919.

DURING to alterations which have been made in the running of our first winter mail, I think it very doubtful whether the connection with the southern courier will be made; so, as there is an opportunity to forward letters as far as Makkovik, I will try to get a few lines through to you by the earliest chance, for, after the news I wrote you by the *Harmony* about a month ago, you will be wondering how things are going with us. I am sorry to have to report that the epidemic of modified smallpox, or whatever it may be, has continued to spread, and has practically gone through the congregation. There are still eight or ten persons who have escaped, but, as we still have several cases, we quite expect it will not stop until all have had their share. In some cases it has passed off lightly, particularly amongst those of mixed blood, but the pure-blooded Eskimoes have suffered

rather badly. All in the mission-house, with the exception of Br. Bohlmann, had slight attacks, but practically no vesicles appeared on us, and after taking care of ourselves for a few days we were able to go about our work again. Br. Bohlmann has been untiring in his care of the sick, and has, I suppose, paid hundreds of visits during the last six weeks or so, but has not found any medicine that really gave the patients relief. The sickness has just had to run its course, and most of those affected have recovered in due course. We still have quite a number of cases, including my three native helpers, and just at this very busy holiday season I miss their help. I may have to cut out some of the less important services, but that will really be no loss, as we have services in abundance. Our festivities consist chiefly of church services. The sad part of this epidemic is that it has caused us to pay several visits to the graveyard, and we have had to lay to their rest several persons whom we could ill spare.

On making up the statistics of the congregation, I find we have to record a decrease of twenty for the year, and that is very large. The natives cannot stand the white man's disease, and as importations of this kind seem to increase, things begin to look bad. One ought not to anticipate trouble, but having heard of the fearful ravages caused by the Spanish influenza, one rather quakes when one thinks of what might happen if that made its appearance among us. May the Preserver of men protect our little nation from that disease.

The outward circumstances of our people are fairly good this winter. Although many of the men were greatly hindered by the prevailing sickness, the catch of seals has been fair, as a large number of seals were caught in the bays by the new ice and it was fairly easy to kill them. They have, at least, provided a supply of blubber which is so necessary for the natives, to say nothing of the meat and skins. The supply of fresh meat for our own tables consists chiefly of seal meat, as hares and partridges are extremely scarce. In fact, we have not seen a partridge this winter. I think it is nearly twenty years since I knew birds so scarce. Foxes are plentiful, and high prices are being paid for skins, so there is no poverty among us this winter. We have already had two fur-buyers here, and they carried off quite a number of skins; no doubt others will come along from the south later on, and I think our people will make them pay pretty stiffly for any skins they may desire.

We are hoping to spend a happy festal season with our people, and "Fader Karismas" has notified us that he will pay us a short visit this evening, though his assortment of presents will not be very great.

I am sorry I can give you no news of Nain; we have heard nothing from the north since the *Harmony* came south.

W. W. PERRETT.

Hopedale, Labrador, December 24th, 1918.

I have just come back from a longer visit to our Settlers and Eskimoes who live north of Makkovik. The southern mail has arrived and wants to leave again soon. This leaves me but little time for letter-writing; but I thought I ought to send you at least a short note to let you know how we are getting on. You will certainly look forward to the first letters from our coast with some concern, since the last news in the autumn from Nain and Hopedale told of much sickness and many deaths. We had not been affected then here in Makkovik, and we are glad to be able to report that up to now the epidemics have not reached our congregation yet. The "Spanish Flu" has been working sad havoc in the south. We hear that around Cartwright and Rigolet about 70 have died of it. The most northern place visited by it lies about 120 miles south from here.

At New Year we had a goodly number of visitors. Mr S. M. Stewart left us on January 6th to travel to Ungava.

Our people are provided with the necessities of life. Foxes are not as plentiful as last year, yet quite a number have been caught.

I hope to write again in February.

B. LENZ.

Makkovik, Labrador, January 19th, 1919.

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ALASKA.

REPORT FROM QUINHAGAK, FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER, 1918.

FOR us here this half-year has been a season filled with many reasons for gratitude. First, during this time we have heard the long expected news that an armistice has at last been declared, after years of terrible war. When this news arrived everyone said, "Thank God." May peace soon come, and suffering cease, and the Christmas message really be carried into all the world.

In the second place, for a number of years we have had very disagreeable, wet and cold summers, but this year we have had really beautiful summer weather, warm and bright, which brought joy to all.

Thirdly, it has been a specially good year for our people, the fish being plentiful as hardly ever before. The fine weather made it possible for our busy people to gather in and store the great and plentiful harvest.

Fourthly, from severe sickness we have been spared. This out here, where we have no doctor, gives us much cause for gratitude.

Fifthly, although everything was more expensive than ever before, no one here suffered want; on the contrary, all things considered, it has been a blessed half-year, in which all were amply able to get the necessaries of life. While the outlook in the spring was dark, because of the total failure of the seal hunting, the many reports about the war, and the scarcity of food throughout the world, we here have enjoyed many blessings, for which we thank our Lord.

The ship with our goods arrived in June, and Br. Schwalbe with his crew managed the boats again, landing our goods here in good condition. How very fortunate it was that we received the bulk of our goods with the first ship we could appreciate later, when we learned that the ship on her second trip had an accident and could not come. This was a very great disappointment to all. It caused a great scarcity up river, and we here miss many things we used to have; but, as mentioned, we have fortunately all the necessary supplies and, with care, a sufficiency of them.

There was, in the first part of the summer, quite a stampede for Good News Bay, where by boat many followed those who had come before by sled. Most of them, if not all, were disappointed, and returned as soon as they could. Besides the one creek where gold was found last year, no other place has been discovered with sufficient gold to render work profitable. Therefore, as quickly as the stampede had started, so quickly it came to an end. In October severe cold weather set in, which compelled those who were mining to stop work, and in the early part of November we saw a regular exodus from the mountains, the men moving to Bethel, and most of them from Bethel to the Yukon. Ten white men live here with us through the winter, and we are glad to say they are all such as esteem the mission work, several showing their interest in a practical way at Christmas, helping the widows, and giving presents to make the children happy.

With the help of some white men and our natives, we moved the church in spring. The river, having washed much land away, had come too close to the church. The moving was accomplished before the water was high. Later, when the wild waters from the mountains came down, they again swept away large pieces of land, so that it was a question whether the house in which Br. Stecker and his family live would be safe through the summer. We decided to move the house at once, which was done, and the very good weather favoured the work. We may mention here that in October the store and warehouse were also moved. All three buildings would have to be moved next spring in any case. Doing it now, will save us the work next spring. All this work has been accomplished, with the help of God, without accident.

The mission work has been carried on as usual. The scarcity of food in spring, and the dark outlook for the future—also the

war news, increasing in bitterness the longer the war lasted—and lately the report about the Spanish influenza raging in parts of Alaska, made the hearts willing to hear of a Saviour mighty to save. Therefore the attendance at the services has been good. For “Thanksgiving” all who could, living in our neighbourhood, came. Especially large was the number of people who were here for Christmas, and we hope they went from here like the Shepherds of old rejoicing

We cannot report any special signs of spiritual life, but we know, judging by their conversation, and from their talks in the Sunday evening services, where they take part, that many of them really wish to live as God’s children. There are also some visible signs proving their Christianity. Widows and orphans have been taken care of. Some of the orphans have been adopted. The “Thanksgiving” collection also proved their love for the Kingdom, and several have contributed to the Red Cross.

At Eek two assisted in conducting the services. Helper Neck (who has been transferred to the tundra villages) trained them, and both are good, conscientious young men. David James is the watchman at Good News Bay.

Unfortunately, travelling for the mission will be very limited this winter. Bethel was put under quarantine at the end of November, and Quinhagak was quarantined in December. Those who have business can travel between these villages, receiving a permit, so long as there is no sickness in this part. The Yukon has been closed, and we only hope that this precaution may help to keep this scourge away.

This year we have not received any gifts from friends for our children, but nevertheless we could make the little ones happy at Christmas with some gifts.

So far we have not had school, as Br. and Sr. Scheel were away, and no fuel had been sent. The lack of fuel has been the greatest drawback; for, thus far, it has been steadily cold, and it would have taken all our wood to keep the school warm.

We ask all our friends to remember us in their prayers, and join us in the petition that His Kingdom may come speedily.

A. STECKER,

A. B. SCHEEL,

at present in Bethel.

Helpers: *Quinhagak*, Juan Petluska;

Good News Bay, David Jones;

Eek, William Gunum and Roland Moses.



WEST INDIES (Jamaica).

THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1918.

By Rev. Jonathan Reinke, D.D., President.

THE reason why missionaries are sent forth is that they may preach the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. It would appear therefore as though the first thing required in an Annual Report is some account of how the Power is working in the hearts and lives of those to whom it is preached. The exciting incidents of missionary undertaking, and the hair-breadth escapes of the missionaries, are all very well ; but what the Church should really require to be told is the progress of the kingdom.

From this standpoint the reports for 1918, while not striking, are more encouraging than is sometimes the case. Several brethren are able to report spiritual awakenings, not so great as we could desire, but proof positive that the Spirit still works among us. Other reports state that exclusions for gross sin are less frequent than formerly. When we remember how rigorously we maintain discipline, this latter feature is indicative of spiritual growth. Speaking generally, the impression left upon one's mind by the perusal of the reports of the brethren is that, not only has good, steady work been done, but there has been distinct progress made. We ask those who pray for mission work regularly to remember Jamaica and her spiritual needs.

The statistics which accompany this report show a slight falling-off in membership ; but if the returns are compared with those of the previous year, it will be seen that two congregations alone account for the loss of over 300, and in each case there has been a change in the ministry. It should not be so, but it is a fact that, when a minister has been in charge of a congregation for some time, he regards certain cases hopefully which his successor, not having the local experience and strictly conforming to the rule for counting, looks upon less hopefully and strikes from the roll ; and in most cases such names deserve to be removed. Probably the same difficulties confront all ministers everywhere, but here in this Province the problem of the lapsed is very difficult to solve. To get rid of members is easy ; to win them back is hard. Another question which continually confronts us is, how to retain our hold on the young, just at that critical age when the world cries invitingly, when parental authority begins to wane, and young manhood and womanhood asserts itself. In

many congregations Children's "Speaking" is still kept up; but, however suitable the Christian Endeavour Society may be for towns and cities, it does not fit in with our country work, on account of the arrangement of our Sunday services, which usually last from 9.30 a.m. until 2 or 3 p.m. In a few centres, where the church is near a village, a C. E. prayer-meeting can be held late in the afternoon. Such places are however few, and a week-day C. E. service seems to be impossible to arrange for, where people have to go long distances to their cultivations, and where night meetings are to be avoided, when possible. The situation requires very careful handling, and is engaging the attention of the pastors; for the work of planning still principally devolves upon them. Our people do not show great resourcefulness in discovering new plans of work; and, where we have a band of faithful helpers who visit systematically and perform their other duties as helpers of the minister, and a committee which actually collects the subscriptions, we must be thankful.

Finance.

This brings us to the financial side of the work, which may never be overlooked, even if we sometimes feel as though it demanded recognition too insistently. I have not yet seen the figures for the past year; but, judging from what the reports say, I think that the financial returns will not be disappointing. But, though not disappointing, they will undoubtedly prove misleading. Money is never a common commodity with the working people of Jamaica, among whom our Church labours. When the people have money, they give it freely. The war, and the lack of imported food, caused the price of all native foodstuffs to rise enormously, whilst the price of the staple produce—coffee, pimento, ginger, and the like—was exceptionally high. The consequence was that the people handled a good deal of money (for them); but everything that had to be bought was very high in price, especially cloth of all kinds, and thread, and school supplies. Therefore the money did not go as far as formerly, but a portion of it was willingly paid into the various Church causes. In spite of this, the position of the ministers was one of great hardship. Ministers and missionaries were therefore specially grateful to the S. P. G. of Bethlehem, Pa., which came to our aid with a special grant. Those who know conditions in both England and Jamaica assure me that living during the war was more expensive in this Colony than in the Mother Country. For example, after living in Jamaica for forty years, I had never known eggs dearer than 2s. 6d. per dozen for, perhaps, a short time at Christmas. Last year the price was 4s. for several months (I am writing of Kingston), and then they were very scarce. Cod-fish is still selling at 1s. a pound—formerly 3d. The price of yams, sweet potatoes, and kindred roots is four times the former price; and as for boots and clothes, we simply do not buy them. Under these conditions it is satisfactory to report that the Mission cause was not neglected, and that several congregations

did remarkably well in the line of repairs and building. Special mention must be made of Eden, where the work of repair is very heavy and is being bravely faced by the congregation itself—how Five-Pound notes would lighten the heart of the minister, one of our younger men!—and of Carmel, where the building of a new church has been undertaken and is being nobly carried through. I gratefully acknowledge liberal help from America for this cause, and hopefully look to sympathisers in Britain for similar assistance.

The "Influenza."

In common with other parts of the world, the Colony was visited by the Spanish Influenza. Bnt, while the mortality was generally high, although all the congregations suffered to some extent we did not lose many members.

In May the new church in Kingston, the Church of the Redeemer, was opened, all the standing members and the deputies of Synod being present, and many of them taking part. A considerable debt remains upon this building, which it is hoped friends will help us to pay off. This congregation has now been supplied with a suitable church, and with the blessing of God upon it should grow.

Synod.

Immediately after the opening of the church the Provincial Synod met in a one-day session. There had not been a Synod since 1913, and it was felt that an opportunity should be given for the Synod to express approval or the opposite of the Administration. The writer was elected President, and the former P. E. C. (Governing Board) was re-elected. The Synod went into the Home Mission Work of the Province with great care, and the result of the Synod was felt in many directions upon the work during the year.

Education.

The educational work of the Church has been carried on amid much difficulty. It has been hard to keep up the school attendance, on account of lack of clothing, and many of our buildings are sadly out of repair. The Government is liberal in the matter of grants, but cannot do all that is required, on account of lack of funds. It is estimated that there will be a deficit on the financial year 1919-20 of £200,000. What we as a Church need in this Province is a donation or gifts aggregating £1,000 to enable us to put our valuable schools in order. This is not merely a pious wish; it is a pressing need.

Our Training College is still doing excellent work, not merely in equipping women teachers intellectually for their life work, but in supplying the moral and spiritual training which is so greatly required. It should be recorded that we find no difficulty in placing our teachers when they have finished their college course; on the contrary, they are sought after.

Our great outstanding need at the present time is men. We

need a few able missionaries and several candidates for the ministry, and the means to train them. May God supply our needs in His good time.

DEMERARA.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER
31st, 1918.

Queenstown.

IN reviewing the work of the year so auspiciously brought to a close, we sound forth a clear note of thanksgiving to the Great Sovereign Disposer of all events, "by Whom kings rule and princes decree justice." For the first time in four consecutive years are we able to write as being not under the menacing adumbration of death-charged war-clouds. What a relief came to our hearts when it was wafted throughout the wide world that at the Eleventh hour of the Eleventh day of the Eleventh month, an armistice was signed by the enemy belligerents by which hostilities were stopped, with a view to permanent peace. Prayers were sent up to the Heavenly Throne that "the work of righteousness might be peace, and the effect of righteousness quiet and assurance for ever" (Isaiah xxxii. 17).

Congregational Survey.

The work at this station was continued throughout the year without any interruption; even on the most rainy days have meetings been held, morning and evening, on the Lord's Day. The Week of Prayer was observed as usual, with the added feature of more persons taking an active part in its proceedings. Very enjoyable and profitable were the early Lenten hours devoted to Meditations on the Passion of our Saviour and close Bible study. This year the Psalms engaged our special devotional study. The Maundy Thursday Communion was largely attended, also the Good Friday and Easter services.

The anniversary services in connection with the Women's Mite Missionary Society passed off with their usual enthusiasm. As usual, the W.M.M.S. had a favourable financial report to give, contributing the very respectable sum of £19 12s. 10d. to the Missionary Association funds.

The usual Confirmation service on Whitsunday was a solemnly interesting one. Seventeen (17) Confirmands (1 male and 16

females), mostly young persons, were by solemn rite admitted to the full membership of the Church. A season of refreshing it proved to not a few of the hundreds who attended this much-patronised service. There is ample ground for the belief that deep earnestness characterized the Christian decision of most of these new members. They are assured of the Church's sympathetic interest and intercession on their behalf.

The Harvest celebrations partook not only of the character of congregational thanksgiving, but also of the still more joyful celebration of the signing of the Armistice.

But those joyful celebrations were soon followed by the visitation of the so-called Spanish influenza, which brought anxiety, sadness, gloom and sorrow to many a home. It is no exaggeration to say that no fewer than 3,000 persons, mostly East Indians, succumbed to the fell pandemic scourge. Despite the fear and precaution which naturally prevailed at the time, the services at Christmastide were fairly well attended, and especially the Watchnight service, at which over 500 persons were present. God gave us a blessed time, and we entered the New Year with His gracious promise: "I will not leave thee nor forsake thee."

Throughout the year we enjoyed much sweet Christian fellowship as members of the body of Christ—a precious boon to any Church. There were a few regrettable lapses, the subjects of which evinced much sorrow, regret and repentance; on the other hand, there were those who earnestly sought and received restoration to full membership. To the grave fact that the material side of life is working subtly for the spiritual impoverishment of certain few we cannot close our eyes, but we hope that the Lord's warning to them will not be in vain: "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" There is no question that the bold, barefaced encroachment on the Lord's Day by the employers of labour at the Sea Defence—a most indefensible action—is greatly contributory to this alarming condition of things, a condition which makes the transition so easy from half-hearted churchmanship to out-and-out repudiation of the claims of vital and practical religion.

It is a great incentive to earnest pulpit and pastoral work to know that there are being reared sturdy characters for the successful counteracting of this tendency, so powerful and so prevalent. May God increase the number of these eloquent witnesses.

Attendances at Public Worship on the Lord's Day have not increased materially, owing principally to the conditions referred to above. There is needed a still greater awakening to remove the accretions of materialism, that seem to paralyse and blind the votaries of Sunday desecration and absenteeism from the House of God. How powerful is the force of habit is sadly illustrated by the experience those are making who view with supercilious

indifference the custom of church-going. Brotherhood and Secret Society Meetings are taken by many as sufficient substitutes for true worship in God's house on His appointed day.

Statistics.

Notwithstanding the addition of 22 new members to our roll, the accredited membership is only 250, that is, 39 less than last year. This is due rather to (1) more careful revision of the roll, necessitated by the removal of names to the "temporary suspension" list, (2) the removal of members to other localities, (3) the loss of 7 members by death. Sixty infants were baptised, of which number we regret to say only 28 were born in wedlock. There were 78 marriages, of which 8 were by licence and 70 after publication of banns.

Finances.

Financially the congregation has done a little better than last year, the difference being about £2. Of the amount raised, about £25 was specially collected for the Graham's Hall Church Building Fund. The cheerful self-denial evinced by the members towards this object must be regarded as a valuable moral asset—an altruistic spirit not to be lightly esteemed in these times of financial stringency and consequent temptation to selfishness. Training along these lines is not only recommendable, but highly desirable, for it is of the essence of true Christianity to make sacrifices for one another.

A note of appreciation must be recorded in favour of those members of our congregation living in the U.S.A. who continue faithfully to contribute their regular quotas to the funds of the Church here.

The exodus to the United States is increasing by leaps and bounds—to such an extent, indeed, that the Government contemplate stopping it in a couple of months' time and refusing to issue more passports. It goes without saying that it will require much recruiting to maintain the strength of the congregation, and the united effort of all the workers is needed to effect this.

Schools.

The attendances at Day and Sunday School show a slight decrease, due principally to tidal migration from school to school and to Sunday labour on the Sea Defence. The work has nevertheless been kept well in hand, and there is no deterioration whatever in the quality of the work performed.

The Sunday School had its festive season in August, when a day out of town greatly relieved the monotony of town life, and refreshed the spirits of the young folks.

Increasing interest is manifested in the Christian Endeavour Society, whose meetings are voted the best attended of the mid-week gatherings. It is potential of much good as an auxiliary to the Church, and should receive every encouragement from the Church members.

Retrospect.

Looking back on another year of spiritual work, we find much

to cheer our hearts, whether viewed from the standpoint of work among the young in Sunday School, and Bible Class, and Christian Endeavour Society or among their elders, to whom pulpit and platform ministrations are apparently coming with increasing and thoughtful appreciation. Preachers have never to complain of listlessness or indifferent attention. Earnestly do we pray that the seed sown may be productive of rich results that will last into Eternity; for nothing less would we be ambitious to labour than the prosperity of the Kingdom of our Lord.

Graham's Hall.

For this congregation the outstanding feature of the year is the replacing of the old dilapidated church by a new, substantially-built, and well-painted edifice of improved design and more symmetrical proportions. The work was begun on the 26th of August, and exactly three months after the edifice was thrown open for the Dedication Service—a service which will not soon be forgotten, on account of its impressiveness.

To achieve this, much planning, praying, and working was done; co-operation, self denial, and steady resoluteness made difficulties give way to success. Almost every one in the congregation willingly contributed—some much beyond what was expected of them—"the people had a mind to work," and we had some agreeable surprises.

When everything is taken into consideration—the reduction of the size of the congregation and of the neighbouring population, the high cost of living, and the changed economic situation—one can safely make the statement that the financial report of this station for the year under review is the best in the annals of its long history. The accredited communicant membership is now only 88, and the average contribution per member is £1 3s. 1d.—an average never before reached! All honour to our good people and to Br. Potter, our faithful assistant.

The actual cost of the undertaking is £468 15s. 0d., of which £309 15s. 10d. has been paid, leaving a balance of £158 19s. 2d. due to local merchants. As the building turned out to be in a worse condition than it appeared to be, and the price of materials and labour continuously increased, the original estimate was exceeded by 50 %—hence the present debt.

For his keen and intelligent interest, his free contribution of labour, and his liberal donations towards the work, grateful mention must be made of Br. P. W. Haynes, the master carpenter, whose example has been a stimulus to others to exceed their original pledges, and whose spirit of disinterested service and rare tact enabled us to finish the work at the figure reported, and that at a time when labour was so scarce that most of the leading carpenters of the congregation could not be spared by their employers to come to our assistance.

Our grateful thanks are due to the merchants and friends of the city who contributed over £37 to the building fund, to

J. Middleton Campbell, Esq., of London, for a liberal donation of £25, to the P. E. C. of the Eastern West India Province for sympathetic assistance, to the tune of £10, to the Queenstown congregation for its filial affection, expressed in the tangible form of £25, with a promise of still further aid, and to all those who donated small sums with their sincere good wishes. To our friends in the British and American Provinces we look with a hope born of faith in their willingness to aid the poorer struggling congregations in the far-flung Missionfields. With their assistance we hope to be able to write "Finis" to the last chapter of our building experiences in this Province.

That the securing of a new, safe, and comely place of worship may create fresh delight in the worship in the sanctuary of the Lord, is the dearest wish of all who love the "Gates of Zion." The work is progressing slowly but surely amid much worldliness and Sabbath desecration on every hand. The attendances at public worship are affected no little by it, notwithstanding the stern protest made against it by the regular church-goers.

The visitation by the influenza scourge preached some very solemn sermons to many who would listen to no other exhortation or entreaty.

Considering the prevalence of sickness, and the sweep of the epidemic, the death roll is comparatively small this year. Among those who departed this life was Br. Daniel Alleyne. He will long be remembered as our premier missionary collector—a most adaptable helper in time of need, and a warm and devoted lover of the Moravian Church. His great desire was to live to see the re-building of the church, which he did everything in his power to promote, even in the days of greatest physical weakness. In his simple, untutored, but suave manner he was able to make some very valuable friends for the Moravian Church in the Colony, distributing in many not easily accessible places Moravian missionary literature. At one time he had among his contributors no less a personage than the Anglican Bishop of British Guiana.

There is a move among the East Indians towards the Church, led principally by their children, whom Br. Potter never fails to enlist in every enterprise promoted by him for the welfare of the Church. The percentage of East Indian children in the Day School exceeds that of the black and coloured, and we fondly hope the religious impression gained there may fructify into ultimate Church membership by public profession of faith in the Lord Jesus.

Under the new manager of the Ogle Estates, where most of our people obtain work and land for cultivation, a new settlement scheme is being promoted which aims at attracting a working population to our immediate neighbourhood. Should this scheme mature there is hope of the growth of our membership.

There is room for improvement in the attendance at the Holy Communion, and also at public services.

The choir, which took on new life, gives a very good account of itself on all festive occasions, and the old masters are becoming again more popularised.

We hope this dear old congregation may maintain its former prestige, if not in members any more, yet in the spirit of service and devotion. How do our hearts yearn over its well-being in every way! The reclaiming of the young people—baptized adults particularly—is the most problematic task we have set us; and we pray the Great Mover of hearts may stir them from their haunts of indifference and help them to throw off the shackles of worldliness and selfishness. The prayers of our Moravian Church are invoked for our work at this place—a work that lies very near to our hearts.

Tabernacle.

From Tabernacle Br. Grant reports as follows:—

In submitttng a report of this mission for the year 1918 we desire in the first place to thank Almighty God for mercies received.

Drought, war, and epidemic played their part in our experience. The Mission family was obliged to take an enforced furlough on account of ill-health; but the work went on without interruption. Our thanks are due to the Superintendent and the Helper and Committee Brethren for the willing help and supervision rendered during our absence.

Despite the hard times and the appalling increase of worldliness, juvenile depravity, and Sabbath desecration, induced by the Sea Defence Commissioners' short-sighted policy of permitting work upon the Sea Defence on the Sabbath Days, from six to six, and thus not only removing groups of our young people from all uplifting influences of Church and Sabbath School, but compelling them to work without break in an atmosphere of aggressive degradation and distaste for religion, our services on the Sabbath Day and the week-days were, with much planning and praying, maintained with a considerable amount of vigour, and our regular sources of congregational income increased.

The Sunday School was the hardest hit by the prevailing conditions, but the Quarterly Union Meetings with our Sister Church in the Community (Bethel, Congregational), and the earnest appeals of those who spoke on those conditions, had undoubtedly some effect in preventing a greater drift.

The Prayer Meeting, Young People's Society, Prayer Circle, and Cottage Meeting Band were kept going by the faithfulness of the members.

The Union Week of Prayer between ourselves and the Congregationalists was a time of great refreshing.

A Series of Open Air Services held by the pastor before the principal spirit shops and gambling dens, where the Word was

fearlessly delivered, were not only appreciated by the large throngs that gathered, but they had a marked effect in arousing the community to the seriousness of the gambling menace and in arresting its spread. Many pledged themselves publicly to forsake their evil ways.

Our Harvest and Self-denial Thanksgiving was as usual a time of social festivity and spiritual blessing. The gifts of provisions were poor, on account of the drought; but by dint of hard work the musical part and the envelopes made up for what was lacking otherwise. The financial result was good.

November 11th, the day of the signing of the Armistice, and a "Victory Day," will never be forgotten here. The patriotic celebrations of the people were led by the pastor. He also organised the demonstrations of the school children of the community, all of whom, with the exception of the Anglicans, joined with their headmasters and teachers.

The toll of the influenza epidemic in this district was very heavy. By letters and interviews with the Surgeon General the pastor secured a band of workers under the local G.M.O. to fight the disease. Free medicines and nourishment were given. The death-rate reached the unprecedented average of 10 daily, for two weeks, exclusive of the higher death-rate on the two flanking estates. We are grateful to God that, although whole families belonging to our Church were smitten down, there were comparatively few deaths.

Our thanks are due to Br. Thomas Henry, engineer foreman of La Bonne Intention, for a fine large gasoline lamp given to the church at "Harvest." We have no more generous soul in this church than our good brother. May others catch this spirit.

JOHN DINGWALI,
Superintendent.

SOUTH AFRICA (East).

MVENYANE (KAFFRARIA) NATIVE TRAINING SCHOOL, 1918.

IT is again with deep gratitude to God that we write of the work here during 1918. At the close of the year we had 111 students in residence, a record number. When the writer arrived in 1911 there were 56 pupil teachers, and that was considered a big number. Now the numbers have nearly doubled, while the staff has remained the same. I hope this will catch the eye of some trained teacher who will be willing to work here. Two would be better, so that the present members of the staff might get their over-due furloughs.

South Africa, in common with the rest of the world, has suffered from the influenza epidemic, and in a very virulent form. We hoped, since we are so far from any town or village, that we should escape, but we were disappointed. The disease spread rapidly. As soon as cases occurred here, we closed the institution and sent the boys home. We were forced to do this, as the nearest doctor was six hours away, and had we sent for him he could not have come. All the native servants took ill, and Mr. and Mrs. Baur had a very difficult and anxious time. They did not spare themselves, and several lives would have been lost but for their devotion and attention. Of the white staff, Mr. and Mrs. Baudert and Miss Kühn contracted influenza—the two ladies being very ill. We could get no medical attention, but, thanks to God's mercy, we had no cases of death on the station. Of the boys, only one died, and there was real cause for gratitude when work was resumed and so many had been spared. The boys were away for five weeks; and, as this was not long before the examination, we feared it would seriously affect the results. The Government promised to take the break into consideration and make due allowance. Two classes have done excellently, while the other showed great extremes. On the whole, and especially considering the epidemic and its after-effects, the boys did well. The results were as follows:—

Pupil Teachers III. 2, 1st class; 22, 2nd class; 2 failed.

„ II. 6, „; 24, „; 15 „

„ I. 2, „; 33 „; 4 „

We have started the new year's work with 106 boys on the roll. It means heavy work for the staff, and we hope that it will soon be possible for the Home Board to send relief. An English trained certificated teacher needs no further qualifications. There is no language difficulty, as all the teaching is done through the medium of English.

I have not heard the exact figures for our Genadendal Training School for coloured teachers; but, judging by the examination lists published by the Government, they seem to be very good indeed, and reflect great credit on Mr. Baumgarten and his coloured assistants.

We rejoice at the conclusion of hostilities, and trust that the world may now settle down to lasting peace. The war has been a very trying time for the workers on this field. There has been little means of communication between them and their friends on the continent, their anxieties and sorrows have been great, but they have gone on with their work faithfully and wholeheartedly. As the only English-born member of the staff, I feel it my duty to testify to the good and faithful service rendered, often under very difficult and trying circumstances. They came to do God's work, and have not wavered. The Society owes them a deep debt of gratitude for their loyal and devoted service.

Revs F. Müller and Hartmann, and Mr. K. Schmitt, are still in the Internment Camp at Maritzburg, and the Government has

not yet disclosed its policy with regard to those interned. Our brethren and their families deserve our real sympathy in the trial of their separation from their work and the breaking of the family circle. No charge was made against them, and the Hon. Burton, a member of the Government, told our representatives that he knew of no case of disloyal action or speech on the part of our workers.

We are all very concerned about the future of our Church and of our work in this land. Moravians have reason to be proud of the work done in this country since the heroic beginning made by that grand pioneer of South African missions, George Schmidt. No society has a more honourable record, and it would be very sad if our work were now to come to an end. May God bless the leaders and members of our Church during these critical days of great difficulty—may He endow our leaders with wisdom, forbearance, and tact, that we may emerge a greater, stronger, and more real Unity than we were before.

J. E. POPE.



WEST HIMALAYA.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR 1918.

UNFORTUNATELY, it is less possible than usual for us to speak of progress during the past year. True, the reports of the individual stations testify to the fact that our work during the year has not been entirely in vain, but none of our missionaries is able to say that he looks hopefully into the future.

The lack of European workers has not only not been remedied, but has made itself felt more keenly, owing to the (local) furlough of Br. and Sr. Burroughs and the fact that Dr. and Mrs. Heber were lent to the C.M.S. in Kashmir. Worse, however, than that is the fact that we have lost several of our native co-workers, without our having any others in view to take their places.

At *Poo*, Ali has definitely left the service of the Mission. If he had not gone of himself, we should probably have had to send him away.

At *Kyelang*, Zodpa has given up Mission service, in order to devote himself wholly to trade. His work during the whole of the time lately has not been satisfactory.

At *Leh*, our evangelist, Trashi Tsering, has departed this life, after having been able to do but little work throughout the year.

A boy, who had finished his studies during the past year, and who had so far given us hopes of becoming a useful fellow-worker in our Mission, decided to enter the service of the State, and our hopes have been disappointed. There is very little prospect of any assistance for us from among our native Christians; nor can it be otherwise, in view of the complaints which we have to make concerning our congregations. There is a lack of true spiritual fervour.

The number, too, of Christians entrusted to our care has declined somewhat, and this state of things will probably continue for awhile. It is noticeable most at Poo, but Leh also has, in spite of the additions which this station has received of late years from Kyelang, begun to lose ground in this respect. Here it is above all the lapse of some of the younger members, just when it was getting time for them to found Christian households, which makes the prospect for the future appear most gloomy.

We have great cause for gratitude to our God for having preserved to us our work here all through the years of war, but the prospects are not hopeful, even now when Peace would seem to be near at hand.

Leh, November 29th, 1918.

F. E. PETER,
Superintendent.



AMONG THE ESKIMOES.



Notes of Voyage to Lake Harbour, Wakeham Bay,
and Fort Chimo, from July 19th to October
14th, 1918.

By the Rev. E. J. Peck.

The Voyage.

FRIDAY, July 19th: Had the pleasure of meeting our kind Bishop at Montreal, and as the vessel leaves to-morrow we were fully occupied in making preparations for the journey.

Saturday, 20th: Went on board the *Nascopie*. We were very kindly welcomed by the officers and others.

Sunday, 21st: Service was held in the forenoon. It was a hearty and inspiring gathering.

From Sunday, 21st, to Wednesday, 24th: The weather was, during this period, often foggy, and great care was shown in navigating the ship under such dangerous conditions.

Wednesday, 24th: Fog cleared away. Passed Cape Race (that Cape so dreaded by mariners) before noon. Reached St. John's,

where we had the pleasure of meeting those great friends, so deeply interested in Eskimo work—the Rev. C. H. and Mrs. Barton.

Saturday, 27th : Left St. John's.

Sunday, 28th : A hearty service was held in the forenoon and some of the sailors were visited in the evening. All on board were most kind, and we feel that the prayers of many friends follow us as we journey on.

Tuesday, 30th : As we moved north we passed through vast fields of drift-ice, which, judging from the white reflection in the sky, stretch far away in a northerly direction. The *Nascopie*, however, being an ice-breaker, drove right into the heaving masses, and either crushed them or pushed aside the ice with her well-fortified bow.

Wednesday, 31st : About noon we drew near to Gray Strait, but the heavy blocks of ice were so close that it was found quite impossible to go ahead ; so it was decided to go outside the Button Islands and try and reach Port Burwell by this longer route.

Thursday, August 1st : Arrived at Port Burwell. (Killinek.—Ed., "P.A.") The Rev. Mr. Townley, belonging to the Moravian Mission, and others, came to welcome us. Mr. Townley kindly invited us to the Mission House, where Mrs. Townley did everything for our comfort. The kindness of these friends will not be forgotten.

Saturday, August 3rd : Left Port Burwell, but we were soon in the midst of heavy floes where, for a time, the vessel was shut in on every side.

Sunday, 4th : Service was held in the morning, when Bishop Anderson preached from the words : "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"—a gospel message full of comfort for weary souls. During the day we struggled on through vast and chaotic fields of ice, the crashing, grinding noise, and the quivering sensation of the ship, being, at times, quite alarming.

Lake Harbour.

August 5th : Early in the morning the ship was surrounded by vast floes, so we could not move. These, however, finally opened out, and we then passed into open leads of water. Steaming on through these canal-like openings we reached Beacon Island, which is about nine miles from Lake Harbour. Here we took an Eskimo pilot on board, who told the captain that the winter ice in Lake Harbour had not yet broken up, although it was "getting thin." So we steamed on, the *Nascopie* cutting her way right into the harbour.

Wednesday, 7th : The ice in some places having broken up, the Bishop and myself were kindly taken in a steam launch, belonging to the *Nascopie*, to the still ice-bound shore. Here we climbed over ice and rocks to the Mission House, in which we lived during our stay of nearly seven weeks at Lake Harbour.

Luke Kidlaapik, one of the catechists, with his wife Rhoda, had arrived from a long journey, but Joseph Pudlo, the other catechist, who had travelled in a westerly direction, did not reach Lake Harbour for some time after our arrival.

Thursday, 8th: As the ice was now somewhat scattered we crossed, in a small canoe, through winding openings between the floes to the Hudson's Bay Company's Post, which is situated on the opposite side of the harbour. Here we were most cordially welcomed by the Hudson's Bay Company's officers, and a large body of Eskimoes. We then visited the Eskimo tents, the inmates of which gave us many hearty handshakes, and were evidently not a little surprised and delighted to see the Bishop. A service, long to be remembered, was held in the evening. The church was packed, and the Bishop's message listened to with deep attention. After this first service an after-meeting was held, when the subject of confirmation was explained to the Christian Eskimoes. There are also many candidates for baptism, who show a most earnest spirit.

Friday, 9th: Candidates for baptism and confirmation were instructed during the day, and a crowded service followed in the evening, when our Bishop pointed out the wonderful work of the Apostles, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Saturday, 10th: A fierce gale from the S.E. arose, and the ice in the harbour, together with other floes from seaward, became so packed that little "open water" could be seen.

Sunday, 11th: A memorable day. The first Confirmation Service in Baffin Land. After a long and trying walk around and over large pans of ice which fringed the shore, and which forced us, during the first part of our journey, to take a rather long detour inland, we at last reached the Hudson's Bay Company's station. Here we were most kindly received by the gentleman in charge, Mr J. Cantley, who invited us to partake of their evening meal after the Confirmation Service had taken place. And what a service! One I shall never forget—so impressive, so inspiring. It seemed as if the labours of Christ's servants in Baffin Land were at last crowned with victory. Thirty-eight were, on this occasion, confirmed, and one has every reason to believe that, as far as human insight can discern, all are true believers in Christ, and anxious to follow His will. After tea another service was held, at which the candidates for baptism were addressed.

August 12th: Another wonderful day. As some of the people will soon be leaving, it was thought well to baptize the candidates who were ready for this sacred rite. Sixteen of these longing souls were, therefore, baptized by the Bishop, and we could not but feel that a marked spiritual influence filled the House of God. After service we tramped in the dark over ice and rocks to the Mission House, where we arrived about midnight.

Sunday, 18th: A day full of blessing. First, a most hearty service was held for our friends connected with the Hudson's

Bay Company, following which Confirmation and Communion Services were held, which, like previous services, were marked by much spiritual power.

Monday, 19th: A busy day. As many of the people were going inland to their Cariboo hunting lands, they came over to the Mission House to bid us good-bye, and never have I seen such a marked spirit of holy gratitude for the blessings which God has poured out upon them. Every band was commended to God in prayer by Luke Kidlaapik in a most touching manner, and as they left us, possibly never to meet again in this life, our hearts were cheered by the fact that nearly every member in each family possessed and could read goodly portions of that Word which giveth understanding to the simple. This precious gift of God, conveyed to the people by the noble Bible Society, has proved to them, through the Holy Spirit's teaching, a fountain of life. Many of them have seen Jesus as Saviour, Lord, and Provider in its sacred pages, and they have found Him sufficient. In the evening of this day another Baptismal Service was held, when one child and three adults were baptized by the Bishop—one fine young fellow, who had evidently been searching the Scriptures, chose for himself the name of Timothy.

From Monday, 19th, to Sunday, 25th: As there are still several Eskimoes at the place, services were held regularly for our friends. These, however, partook more of the nature of large Bible Classes than ordinary services, as they always read together, after the opening prayers, a portion of God's Word, the exposition of which, often verse by verse, forms a ground-work of Christian knowledge and spiritual strength.

Sunday, August 25th: Snowing during day. This year is truly called, using an Arctic term—"an ice year." Such is caused by a late spring, following an exceptionally cold winter; consequently the ice does not break up till quite late, and it then becomes a frost-forming factor, which almost seems to turn summer into winter. We had very hearty services during the day for the Hudson's Bay Company's officers, and for the Eskimoes.

From Sunday, 25th, to Sunday, September 1st: We are now expounding the Epistle to the Romans at our daily meetings; the people also often come to see the Bishop, and there are many opportunities for social chats, and for teaching them more fully the way of life.

Sunday, September 1st: The weather having been calm of late, the ice, which had been almost welded together by former strong S E. winds, now "opened out," so that we managed to pilot our frail canoe through the floes to the Hudson's Bay Company's station. Three helpful services were held during the day.

Friday, 6th: A sad day. A young girl, who had been baptized, died. As our Burial Service is translated, the sorrowing people who gathered near the grave were able to realize the glory and honour of those who die in the Lord. What a contrast this to the

days of heathen darkness! How precious is the Gospel which turns death into life. "Whosoever . . . believeth in Me shall never die"

Saturday, 7th: Some Eskimoes arrived whom I had never seen before, and it was a joy to hear some of them read quite fluently. They all expressed an earnest desire to be enrolled in Christ's flock. Here we can trace, as in many other cases, the patient teaching of the Rev. J. W. Bilby, and the far-reaching itinerating work of the Rev. A. L. Fleming; neither has the brief career of the late Mr. Broughton been forgotten by the grateful Eskimoes, who still speak of him as the "one who loved."

Sunday, 8th: A day of days. A hearty service was held in the morning in the Hudson's Bay Company's House, while Luke Kidlaapik and Joseph Pudlo conducted an Eskimo service in the church. In the afternoon there was a large congregation, at which Bishop Anderson baptized eight adults and ten children. In the evening the church was full, and a most solemn and devout spirit rested on those assembled as the Bishop administered the rite of Confirmation to twenty earnest souls.

Saturday, 14th: A wet night, so we did not hold service. Had, therefore, a time of prayer with the catechists, and they then explained, by the help of well kept records, their travels and their work for Christ during the past year. Joseph Pudlo, who had travelled in a westerly direction, had met and taught three hundred and sixty-four of his own people, while Luke Kidlaapik, who had ministered to his Lake Harbour friends till after Christmas, had then made a long journey to Frobisher Bay, during which about one hundred and twenty Eskimoes were reached. They both report a great desire for Christian instruction, which statement fully agrees with our recent remarkable experiences. Besides these faithful men there are four unpaid teachers; one of them, in particular, Joseph Yarley, is a most attractive, clever, and promising young man.

Sunday, 15th: Another happy day. In the afternoon four adults and five children were baptized by the Bishop, and in the evening seven were confirmed, amongst whom were the teachers, Joseph Pudlo, Joseph Yarley, and their wives.

From Sunday, 15th, to Saturday, 21st: We have been having remarkably fine weather lately, which is such a pleasant contrast to the ice and snow conditions previously mentioned. We have been busy, day by day, holding services, receiving visitors, and expounding the Psalms in Eskimo for the catechists. This is done at our daily morning prayers, and means not a little careful preparation to make clear some parts of this wonderful book. Many copies of this treasury of God have, through the kindness of the Bible Society, been sent to Lake Harbour and to other Arctic stations this year. How can we thank this noble Society for such a gift?

Saturday, 21st: The *Nascopie* arrived at about 1 p.m. The vessel will leave soon, so we were busy with various matters.

Sunday, 22nd : As we were informed that the *Nascopie* would leave about noon, the Bishop, myself, and the native helpers partook of the Memorials of our Lord's Love. We spent a hallowed season together. We then went on board, and Lake Harbour was soon far away. And so ended a time of much labour, but certainly one of deep spiritual joy and great blessing.

Wakeham Bay.

Monday, 23rd : Arrived at Wakeham Bay. We soon went on shore, where a large band of Eskimos welcomed us with many hearty handshakes. In the afternoon we held an open air service. A goodly congregation assembled on the lee side of the Hudson's Bay Company's store, and as the sun was shining brightly our position was by no means uncomfortable. Here was held a Baptismal and also a Confirmation Service, when two children of Matthew Putulik were baptized, and Matthew, his wife, and the elder members of his family confirmed. There are many seeking souls at this place, who long to have a missionary living with or near them. Will not every friend who reads these lines wrestle with God in prayer for these poor people? A man chosen by the Holy Spirit is the man needed for this strategic centre for Eskimo work.

Tuesday, 24th : Left Wakeham Bay.

Wednesday, 25th : Arrived at the entrance of the Fort Chimo river.

Fort Chimo, Ungava Bay.

Thursday, 26th : The Eskimo pilot came on board in the morning, when, helped by the flood-tide, we soon reached this most important post, where we found over four hundred souls, one hundred and twenty of whom were Indians, chiefly of the Nascopic tribe. Going on shore we found at the landing-place a beautiful triumphal arch, which the kind people had erected to welcome the Bishop, and attached to which were these words of greeting, written in large syllabic characters—"We are thankful that thou, the great teacher, hast arrived." As the Rev. S. M. Stewart was away on furlough, and as our kind Bishop had been invited to do episcopal work at a place where hitherto no Bishop had found it possible to go, it was only through searching out the people from morning till night, and after many inquiries, that we could select from the Christian Eskimos candidates for confirmation. Towards evening, however, as the Indians and Eskimos had heard of our desire to hold service in the spacious and nice church, a large congregation assembled, many of whom had to sit on the floor. Here they joined heartily in a simple service, and listened to the Bishop's message with deep attention.

Friday, 27th : As Silas Sappa, the Eskimo catechist, and a Mrs. Gordon, who are Mr. Stewart's great helpers in the good work, were at Fort Chimo, we were also greatly assisted by these friends in choosing, from amongst several who wished to be confirmed and baptized, those who seemed moved by the Holy Spirit to give themselves fully to Christ. So during this day ten adults and three boys were baptized, and twenty-seven adults confirmed.

Saturday, 28th : A memorable day. In the afternoon Bishop Anderson baptized two Indian children. The Bishop also preached to the Indians, who quite understand him, and it was touching to see the intense attention of these poor creatures as they listened to the Gospel. In the evening a Marriage Service was held in Eskimo, also a Confirmation Service, at which eleven earnest souls were confirmed. Although there was much to cheer, yet the Eskimoes, in particular, were filled with sorrow on account of the loss of two of their friends who were recently drowned through a canoe accident. Entering one of the homes of the mourners, so full of grief, the Saviour's comforting words (St. John xi. 25-26) appealed to us with wonderful force, and as we knelt together in prayer an indescribable spiritual power rested upon us.

Sunday 29th : A most inspiring united service was held in the morning, when forty Eskimoes received the Memorials of our Saviour's unceasing love. The Bishop also spoke many loving parting words to the poor Indians and Eskimoes. In the afternoon we left Fort Chimo, when we bid farewell to our most hospitable friends, Mr. and Mrs. Watt, the Hudson Bay Company's kind agents at this station, also to quite a large company of Indians and Eskimoes, who clasped our hands and thanked us heartily for the little we had done for them. This is a brief record of a truly wonderful time—one, I feel sure, which will cheer Mr. Stewart's heart, whose labour of love here has not been in vain in the Lord.

Tuesday, October 1st : Reached Port Burwell (Killinek), where we had the pleasure of meeting old friends again.

Wednesday, 2nd : Left Port Burwell. Passed Cape Chidley, the tide being with us. Drove along at the rate of some sixteen miles an hour.

Thursday, 3rd : A lovely day. No drift-ice about, only a few icebergs. We have, as fellow-passengers, Captain French, of the R.N.W.M.P., and two of his brave men. They went out two years ago in the *Nascopie*, and landed at Chesterfield Inlet. Captain French had orders to find the murderers of two prospectors, and to investigate the cause, or causes, of this terrible crime. Starting from Baked Lake, Captain French and his companions travelled, on the whole, five thousand miles, and met *four thousand Eskimoes, many of whom had never seen a white man before*. There can be no doubt that in the vast regions to the north and west of Baffin Land there are still many Eskimoes to be sought out. A stupendous task this for the Anglican Church in Canada, but one which, in God's strength, will, we feel sure, not be left undone.

Friday, 4th : Arrived at Cartwright, which is a Hudson's Bay Company's station on the Labrador Coast. Had a very happy time with the Rev. H. Gordon, whose earnest work for God is well known.

Sunday, 6th : A most hearty service was held on shore, when Bishop Anderson preached a most helpful sermon on the duty of thanksgiving. Left Cartwright in the afternoon.

Tuesday, 8th : Arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland.

Wednesday, 9th : A very encouraging meeting was held in the evening, which was preceded by a most happy social meal. These were arranged by the thoughtful kindness of our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Barton. His Lordship the Bishop of Newfoundland in a most kindly manner introduced Bishop Anderson and myself to the audience, and we both spoke of God's marvellous doings among the Eskimos.

Thursday, 10th : As we travel, via the Reid Newfoundland Co. route, to Sydney, and from there to Montreal, we bid farewell to our friends on board the *Nascopie*, all of whom have shown us not a little kindness, and whose gentlemanly spirit we cannot forget. As the train leaves St. John's at 1 p.m., I was busy at the station the latter part of that forenoon, and therefore did not know the nature of the telegram which had reached my friend Mr. Barton, but which he most kindly and wisely explained and handed to the Bishop. After the train started, our Bishop, in a most sympathetic manner, told me that our son, Henry Martyn, had died on the 28th of September, from wounds received in France. There is something so sacred, so touching, as his bright, loving face still lives before me, that I could not mention his pathetic death if I did not believe that God will, through that distant and unknown grave, cause some witnesses for Christ to go forth and join in Christ's everlasting work and victory in the Polar wastes. There is a mine of truth and comfort in our Saviour's words, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone : but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

Monday, 14th : Arrived at Ottawa ; found Mrs. Peck wonderfully sustained by God's grace and love.

Deeply thanking all kind friends for their true sympathy, and for their unceasing and prevailing prayers,

Gratefully and truly yours,

E. J. PECK.



MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Jottings from Jamaica.

By Br. Jon. Reinke.

Leprosy in Jamaica.

WE usually associate leprosy with the East, and I suppose that there are many who will be surprised to know that it is to be found even in England. One of the worst cases that I have known was that of a man of English parentage who lived in

Jamaica. There are not very many cases of leprosy in this Island, but there are sufficient to demand the upkeep of a leper hospital at Spanishtown; and isolated cases are to be found throughout the Colony.

A visit to one of these cases may prove interesting. The leper was a woman, and the case one of the most distressing I have met; but the soul of the leper was one of the sweetest I have ever come in contact with.

The house was not too bad as such houses go, but you might call it a hovel. We are riding through the district. Here and there are the comfortable houses of the peasantry, comfortable three-roomed and four-roomed cottages, some of them painted and fairly well furnished. There are patches of cultivation in which are grown maize, sugar-cane, yams and cassava. Then we enter upon an uncultivated bit of ground, where the grass and weeds are high, and the trees grow thick and neglected, and the atmosphere is damp and depressing. In the midst of it is a one-roomed, wooden structure. At one time it might have been quite comfortable, but now the door hangs from one hinge, and the glass has been removed from the sashes and the apertures roughly closed with boards. There is no furniture—no chair, no table, no bed. In the corner is what appears to be a rubbish heap—a mat, some old clothes and a bundle. I failed to discern the woman whom we were looking for. The Helper who was with me, however, was not at a loss, but, approaching the rubbish heap, exclaimed “Well, here we are, Sister D.” The heap moved, and a most pitiable and sepulchral voice answered, “Glad to see Brother Mac and the minister.” I shall not attempt to describe what I saw. There was little mouth, no nose, bleared eyes, hands bound up, on which there were no fingers, and feet wrapped in rags, on which there were no toes. I have never seen a more pitiable object. And to this “object” we were to administer the Lord’s Supper!

Before I do so, I must have some knowledge of the condition of the soul that lives within that mass of corruption. And the soul was there, unspoiled by its surroundings, clinging with tender faith to a Saviour Who had revealed Himself so fully that, when the lips which were no lips spoke of Him, they told of a faith and certitude undimmed by years of sorrow and a trust unshaken by affliction. It was a revelation which I have never forgotten. Such confidence; such assurance of what the Saviour had done for her; and such bright and cheerful anticipation of a future with the Saviour Whom she loved. And not one word of complaint. The son was fairly well circumstanced, but totally neglected his mother. But there was no word of reproach. She stayed herself on her God. She had not long to wait then; and her end was peace.

Up among the Ginger Hills.

We left the mission-house before the sun was up, and while

the thick fog still covered the commons through which we were to pass with a snowy blanket, which chilled and penetrated. Having covered about three miles of fog we turn and begin the ascent of the hills, as we call them in Jamaica, though they are really mountains, some two or three thousand feet high. The genial sun peeps out over the mountain tops and is welcomed, though about mid-day his rays will be bright and hot enough to bring water exposed in a metal vessel almost to the boiling point. Presently we reach the small cottage where the district prayer-meeting is to be held, and, early as it is, twenty or thirty people are assembled, all anxious for the meeting, which lasts an hour, to begin, in order that after the meeting they may go to "ground." If you have visited their cultivation, you know why they speak, not of their *field*, but their *ground*. Field there is none, and no opportunity for the use of plough and harrow and cultivator and the usual implements of the English farmer. Those grounds on the hillsides are cultivated with the pickaxe, the crowbar, and the hoe. No plough can enter there. First the stones have to be gathered together and dug out of the ground, and then piled into cairns. The remaining soil must be cultivated with the hoe, with no aid from helpful machinery or faithful four-footed friend. Here the corn and the yams, the sweet-potatoes and cassava and eddoes are planted; and here the wealth-producing ginger is grown. But I am not going to tell you about coffee or ginger-planting or reaping, but about what I found at the prayer-meeting in the Ginger Hills.

After the prayer-meeting came the visiting of the old and sick in the district—some days an all-day job, when the missionary has to be glad of the roasted cocoa which he has put in his pocket, and a drink of water from a none too clean calabash.

The old man whom I visited in the course of my peregrinations did not appear to be a very promising subject for Christian conversation. He was quite friendly, but to my mind rather stupid. The one-roomed cottage was clean enough, and the old man himself was habited in a nicely starched and ironed suit of "old-iron," as that fashion of calico cloth is popularly called.

I am not superstitious, nor do I wish my people to be; so I enquire of the old man as to the ground of his faith. His reply came in the form of a text. I have asked many for a reason for the faith that is in them, but have never received a more apposite reply. This is it, in the form of a text, "God has not appointed us unto wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." Can you produce a better?



EDITORIAL NOTES.

BR. W. W. PERRETT, the Superintendent of the Labrador Mission, is on his way home to England, in order to take counsel with the members of the British Provincial Mission Board and the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel ("S.F.G.") concerning the future of the Mission over which he presides. So serious have been the inroads of the epidemic of Influenza which has visited the Coast that in all probability one at least of our stations will have to be given up. At the time these Notes are being written Br. Perrett has, so far as we know, not yet reached St. John's, Newfoundland.

According to letters from Alaska dated January 13th, 1919, the dreaded Influenza scourge had then not yet reached the Kuskokwim River, where all our stations are situated, but a strict quarantine against it was being set up. Br. A. F. Butzin, the Mission Superintendent, had been appointed quarantine officer, and was visiting the various villages and putting the quarantine into force. Our missionaries were at the time of writing all well, but they were keenly alive to the dangers of the situation.

On March 14th last our Mission in Nicaragua celebrated the 70th Anniversary of its commencement, with appropriate services and an historical address by the Superintendent. On March 17th a serious fire broke out at Cabo Gracias a Dios, and for awhile it looked as if the whole town would be destroyed. Our church was in very great danger; however, owing to the fact of the wind veering to the East, the fire fighters were able to save the building, but it is badly charred on two sides, and most of the window-panes were cracked by the heat.

The tragic death is reported of Br. R. Wirth, the beloved Superintendent of the Home for Apprentices carried on in connection with the Mission firm of C. Kerston & Co., Paramaribo, Surinam. While bathing in the sea on March 2nd, Br. Wirth was attacked by a swordfish, which cut off his right leg at the knee and inflicted other wounds. Though he was hurried off to the Hospital in Paramaribo by motor-boat and taxicab, and although he lived from 11 a.m., when the accident occurred, until 3.30 p.m., he had lost so much blood that he succumbed. Almost the entire city turned out to do him honour at his funeral, the Governor of the Colony also sending his special representative.



THE REV. W. W. PERRETT,
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE LABRADOR MISSION.